DISCUSSION ON DEMANDS FOR GRANTS.

President: Order, order. I wish to inform honourable members of the House that the Government will be sending the Inspector General of Police on some urgent business to-morrow morning. If the honourable members have no objection, the Police Grant may be taken up first after lunch. Have the honourable members any objection to it?

Mr. Kottoor Kunjukrishna Pillai: We have no objection, Sir.

President: That means, the Police Grant will probably be taken up after the Grants relating to Education and University.

Mr. M. K. Ananthasiva Aiyar (*Nominated*): Sir, last day I was saying that Vancheesamangalam is not at all sung in some of the English High Schools and that it is not sung to the correct tune in many of the other schools. In so far as instructions have been issued by the Department that the singing of Vancheesamangalam is compulsory in all the schools, whether departmental or private, disciplinary action should be taken against such of the schools as have not cared to give attention to it. In the case of schools where Vancheesamangalam is not sung to the correct tune, I would suggest that some gramophone records may be purchased by Government and distributed through the Assistant Inspectors, so that they may be able to see that Vancheesamangalam is sung correctly.

Mr. Kottoor Kunjukrishna Pillai: May I know from the honourable member whether gramophone plates by themselves can sing?

Mr. M. K. Ananthasiva Aiyar: Gramophone machines are a little costly and the headmasters of schools may be able to get gramophone machines for use but not these records.

The next matter about which I wish to speak is the prescription of text-books. It has to be said with very great regret that books are being prescribed very late in the year, and that as a result, for a long time after the schools reopen, students do not get the books. For instance, this year a book known as the "Crimson Reader" was prescribed for the First Form in English Schools. This book was not available even after a month after the schools were reopened. It would be well if the books are prescribed early enough in the year, sufficiently early before the schools reopen so that the printer and the publisher may be able to keep sufficient number of books for sale to the students.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

The policy of changing text-books year after year is not sound. Travancore is a very poor country and it will be of considerable help to many students if the books are not changed very often.

Another aspect which I may bring to the kind attention of Government is about the strength of the classes in vernacular primary schools. I see that the strength of pupils in these classes, especially in classes I and II is 80 or 90. How can a poor teacher be able to coach up all these 80 or 90 students properly, to give instructions to them properly and to maintain discipline in the class. I would urge the Department to see that only 40 students are put under the care of any one teacher. This may involve a very great amount of expenditure. I concede that. I would suggest that if the Director of Public Instruction could find people who would undertake to manage these departmental schools if handed over to them, there will be no harm in handing over such schools to private management, with the building, furniture etc., attached to the respective schools. Provided the Director has got implicit confidence in such persons that they, if entrusted with the management of the schools, will certainly do the task properly, there is absolutely no objection in handing over the schools to private management. On the other hand, I think it will be conducive to better instruction being given to the students also. With these words, I support the Demand.

Mr. Thomas Chandy Mukkadan (*Nominated*) : സ്വന്തമായി സ്കൂൾനടത്താൻ പ്രാപ്തിയുള്ളവർക്ക് കൊടുത്തുവരുന്ന ഗ്രാന്റു നിറുത്തുന്നതുകൊണ്ട് തരക്കേടുണ്ടോ?

Mr. M.K. Ananthasiva Aiyar : കൃത്രിമവും അക്രമവും നടത്തുന്ന പള്ളിക്കൂടങ്ങളിലെ ഗ്രാന്റുകൾ നിറുത്തിയിട്ടുള്ളതായി എനിക്കു അറിയാം.

Mr. Thomas Chandy Mukkadan: ചില സ്കൂളുകൾക്ക് ഗ്രാന്റു കൂടാതെതന്നെ നടത്തുന്നതിനുള്ള സൌകര്യങ്ങളുണ്ട്. അങ്ങനെയുള്ള സ്കൂളുകളുടെ ഗ്രാന്റു നിറുത്തുന്നതിൽ അഭിപ്രായവ്യത്യാസമുണ്ടോ?

Mr. M. K. Ananthasiva Aiyar: പ്രൈമറി സ്കൂളുകളിൽ അങ്ങിനെ കാണുന്നില്ല.

Mr. Thomas Chandy Mukkadan : പ്രൈമറി സ്കൂളുകളുടെ കാര്യമല്ലാ ഞാൻ പറഞ്ഞത്. മിഡിൽ സ്കൂളുകളുടെ കാര്യമാണ് ഞാൻ പറഞ്ഞതു.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

Mr. M. K. Ananthasiva Aiyar: അങ്ങിനെയുള്ള മിഡിൽ സ്കൂളുകൾ ഉണ്ടെങ്കിൽ അവയുടെ ഗ്രാന്റു നിറുത്താവുന്നതാണ്

Mr. A. Gopala Menon (*Director of Public Instruction*): Sir, the review of the administration of the Education Department in this honourable House has been confined to two or three main points on which I wish to offer a few words of explanation.

I will begin, Sir, with Mr. Ananthasiva Aiyar's remarks on the singing of Vancheesamangalam. Training was given to many batches of teachers during the long vacations for three years in the practice of singing Vancheesamangalam properly. These teachers are now available in different parts of the country. No doubt, they might have forgotten the correct tune and might have slipped back into their old ways. The remedy proposed by Mr. Ananthasiva Aiyar has its own difficulties. I was personally of the opinion, Sir, that circuiting officers might carry a gramophone with the record and stop at the schools that are on the way, each time for half an hour at each school, to give them the proper tune. I propose to carry this out myself in the course of the next year. In regard to schools which as alleged do not carry out the injunction of the department to sing Vancheesamangalam, the complaints received have been investigated; and on investigation these were invariably found to be false. That Vancheesamangalam is being sung in all the schools is the information that the Department possesses at present. But the matter will be pursued and enquiries will be constantly made with a view to make this practice universal in all the schools of the State.

Mr. Ananthasiva Aiyar also referred to the frequent change of text books. The Government have expressed their views on this matter in another place and have offered to consider the question of retaining some books for some time, at any rate, during the depression period. The last point Mr. Ananthasiva Aiyar mentioned was that the strength in primary schools is much more than they could contain. It is known to the department that there is over-crowding in the first two classes of primary schools; and where there was congestion in some of the departmental schools much has been done in recent years by way of providing additional accommodation. Additional lands have been acquired wherever possible and new buildings put up to relieve the congestion. In spite of all these, such difficulties arise in certain schools, and the department is aware of it. Provision is being made annually to the extent of about Rs. 3,000 for payment to additional teachers wherever necessary and that provision has been made for the year 1116 also. Mr. Ananthasiva Aiyar observed that private managements may be entrusted with the opening of more primary schools.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

The difficulty, Sir, is that private managements do not, even as they are, admit the full strength they could accommodate in their primary classes, because the grant is given per teacher, per class, on the minimum strength of 30 pupils; and beyond 30 or 40 pupils no management admits if it can be avoided. As the hon'ble member is aware, departmental schools cannot do so and admission to these classes have to be made at all times of the year. Attempts are being made to restrict these admissions to particular periods and to regulate the strength of these classes as far as possible. I may also submit that additional accommodation and teachers will be provided as soon as practicable. In the matter of handing over schools bodily to private managements, I do not wish to make any observation as I consider it highly impracticable.

My hon'ble friend Mr. Kuruvilla in the course of his remarks dwelt upon the inadequacy of the provisions for regulating the proper payment of teachers by the managements, and the excessive rigour in the collection of fees and grant of concession, and he urged that the department should bestow attention in those directions. I may admit that if Mr. Kuruvilla thinks that much could not be achieved by issuing circulars to that effect as is being done now, I am also of the same opinion. But, what the department had in mind was that a proper atmosphere must be provided for avoiding the managements' manipulations and machinations in respect of the collection of fees and the payment of salaries to teachers. The Government have not exhausted their reserve of resources to enforce honesty and honest dealing in this matter. It is reprehensible that an atmosphere of dishonesty should prevail in schools where the children know that they have to pay fees and that they are not asked to do so, and it is a matter of common knowledge that the teachers sign for amounts which they do not actually receive, and false accounts are presented for earning grants. Everything that can be done to remove the practice of dishonesty should be done and it is only towards that end that special circulars have been issued to managements.

In regard to the restriction of teachers from taking up extra scholastic work, I think that very few people would feel that the department has been overstrict. It has no doubt insisted on special permission being obtained for the purpose of undertaking tuition and other work outside school hours. The wholesome effect of such restriction will be universally recognised. Merely because one or two teachers did not get such permission when they really wanted only to take up bee keeping and other avocations, we cannot condemn the necessity of such measures. I do not think Sir, that merely for such activities the license of a teacher can be cancelled;

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

[Mr. A. Gopala Menon.]

and if as Mr. Kuruvilla pointed out, any Assistant Inspector had been over censorious in this regard, he can be called to order, in case the details of the case are brought to the notice of the head of the department.

In regard to fee concessions, Sir, the Government have laid down certain rules and these rules have to be observed in private schools also. In return for such concessions in private schools, a liberal grant called 'fee concession grant' is made to all the managements. But attempts are being made by various managements to secure larger strength in their classes by offering half-fee and no-fee concessions, and complaints have been received in the office of the Director regarding such practice. An attempt has been made by the department to regulate such illicit concessions. Ordinarily, where a pupil has not failed in any particular class in the previous year, the special concession is allowed, but not more than 10 or 15 per cent in such school, so that such concessions should not affect the strength of the other schools. Of course, if the schools begin to compete in this manner, the ultimate sufferers will be the teachers and if teachers suffer, instruction will suffer thereby. I have been able to convince a few managements at least of the necessity to work up to the rules of fee collection so that teachers may be properly paid. As a matter of fact, many of the circulars recently issued by the department should be viewed as a whole, because they have been inspired with the single motive to secure proper payment of salaries to teachers and efficient work in schools.

Mr. K. K. Kuruvilla (*Mavelikara and Tiruvalla* cum *Pattanamthitta*): What does the Director think in the matter of fee concessions when a management feels that it has several pupils who are fairly intelligent but at the same time cannot pay fees for education ?

Mr. A. Gopala Menon: That suggestion is purely academic. Pupils who have failed twice and thrice in a particular class have been recommended for fee concession, and the department has disallowed only such concessions. In cases where pupils are intelligent and require help, there is absolutely no objection for the department to give assistance in that direction, after assuring itself that there is no irregularity in the operation of the rules connected with it.

Mr. Balakrishnan Tampi was dwelling on the condition of primary schools and he has insisted that I should give an answer to him. In reply, I can assure the hon'ble member and the House

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

that the Government are not unaware of the inadequacy of furniture and poor equipment in primary classes. In the Budget for 1116, an additional provision has been made for the purpose of improving the condition of primary schools, particularly in the matter of furniture. As regards school buildings and premises, the department will continue as hitherto acquiring additional lands and putting up additional buildings.

Sahib Bahadur M. Sultan Muhiadeen : പല മലയാളം സ്കൂളുകളിലും ഇതേവരെ അദ്ധ്യാപകന്മാരെ നിയമിച്ചിട്ടില്ല എന്നുള്ള വിവരം അറിയാമോ?

Mr. A. Gopala Menon : ചില സ്കൂളുകളിൽ നിയമിച്ചിട്ടില്ല എന്നുള്ളതു വാസ്തവംതന്നെ. അതിലേക്കുവേണ്ട ഏർപ്പാടുകൾ ചെയ്തുവരുന്നുണ്ട്.

President: As the time for the Demand has expired, the question before the House is that Government be granted a sum of Rs. 44,09,000 under Demand IV—Education Department excluding Travancore University.

The motion was put and carried.

The Demand was passed.

DEMAND V—TRAVANCORE UNIVERSITY.

Mr. C. V. Chandrasekharan: Sir, I beg to move for a grant not exceeding Rs. 7,75,000 under Demand V—Travancore University.

Mr. A. Easwara Pillai (*Kottarakara and Pathanapuram cum Shencottah*): Sir, I wish to make a few observations on this Demand, in particular about the system of education now obtaining in our schools and colleges. This system of education is a very antiquated one. It was orginally designed by Lord Macauly in British India, for producing clerks for Government services, and served its purpose. Any attempt to perpetuate it, is certainly dangerous and it has its repercussions here. It is high time for us to make a change in the system and make it really useful. Every year our colleges turn out thousands of degree and diploma holders. They are mainly intended for Government services. After all Government require only a few hands every year. A great number is left without employment. Their number is swelling year by year. For want of better and useful employment, these educated men create trouble in the country. They excite uneducated unemployed persons to undesirable actions. If the volume of educated unemployment is allowed to increase, I can fore see a great cataclysm in the State in the near future. My submission is that

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly